

LFWG MEETING MINUTES

August 21, 2002

1. Next Meeting:

Date: November 7, 2002

Time: 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Place: Logistics Management Institute

2. Co-chair Sandy Kline convened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. Attached are the approved agenda and a list of meeting attendees.

3. **New Federal/DoD EDI Website Demo.** Kim Lambert (LMI) presented the new Federal/DoD EDI Website to the group. This new site, "FedeBiz," incorporates the content of the old NIST Federal IC repository and the DoD EDISMC website. The site is currently available at <http://www.fedebiz.com/> but will soon be available at <http://www.fedebiz.gov/> as well. The primary function of the FedeBiz site is to serve as a repository for federally approved Implementation Conventions or Implementation Conventions that are moving through the federal approval process. As such, site features include: search functionality for ICs, a repository of LFWG meeting agenda and minutes, and a spreadsheet displaying IC tracking data. In the interest of keeping the LFWG listserv private, there is no information listerv-related information posted on the site. Ms. Lambert urged all group members to browse through the site and send any feedback and suggestions to her at klambert@lmi.org or webmaster@fedebiz.gov.

Nathaniel Obey (DLMSO) observed that the dates on the IC documents posted on the website differed from those listed as their approval dates on the IC main page.

Kathleen Fory (LMI) suggested that DISA's contract support get in touch with Ms. Lambert to provide the official approval dates of the ICs and place these dates on the IC documents. Group members offered other suggests for the website, such as adding a link to DLMSO's website, a comments function, and a private login portal for group members. Ms. Lambert noted that while a login function is cost prohibitive at this time, it remains on the list for future development.

4. **Agency/Service Update.** Group members apprised one another of their agencies' EDI work since the last meeting.

- Larry Sieber (Target Systems) informed the group that NAVSUP has no major EDI initiatives underway at the moment. NAVSUP will brief the Supply PRC on its enterprise resource planning (ERP) initiative at the September 10-12 PRC meeting. Ms. Kline added that both NAVSEA and NAVAIR's ERP projects would use iDOCs for data exchange. Vermella Savage (DLMSO) wondered whether MILS or DLMS would support the iDOCs, and Mr. Sieber and Ms. Kline responded that, while they did not know the answer to the question, it was one that ought to be posed to ERP efforts Navy-wide.

NAVSUP has been implementing XML data exchange with its ICPs. Mr. Sieber believes that NAVSUP is using schemas rather than DTDs. He also informed the group that there is no current expansion of the EDI transactions coming off of ships.

- Mary Jane Johnson (DLMSO) informed the group that BSM went live at the end of this past July. DLA discovered a few glitches in some of the DLMS ICs as a result and expects to find more as more service modernization efforts come online. Ms. Savage added that some of the corrections to the ICs are still in processing, but those that have been implemented are running smoothly. These changes are being documented for purposes of version control. While the federal IC approval process has slowed considerably, DLMSO has implemented its new ICs without approval. The group decided that it must get the federal side re-invested so the DLMSO ICs will not be non-compliant with federal ICs.

Mr. Obey informed the group that DLMSO has worked on creating XML schemas for existing DLMS ICs. DAASC is in the process of procuring Mercator, a tool that maps EDI to XML. The only XML design rules DLMSO is using are those used in EDIFEX and the resultant .sef file. Once the DoD has finalized its position on XML, DLMSO will follow its guidelines. The current schemas are an interim product. Mr. Sieber pointed out that X12 is positioning itself to be the XML authority and X12C has released a technical report on SML design rules.

- Ireatha Hughes (DFAS) updated the group on the status of the ICs DFAS is working on. The 810C and 810R are coming out; the 821 still has some changes to be made as does the 521, which can be expected to come out in late 2002 or early 2003; the 850 is out for a vote; the Procurement Working Group will be meeting next week on the 860; the 861 is testing a work-around; and the 857 has some changes to be made. Ms. Fory informed the group that LMI is working with DRMS to adapt Power Track's IC (the 858) for its use. Ms. Hughes said that Power Track is going to take the 858 and translate it to the 821.
- Carolyn Howard (U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command) informed the group that the Army is still working on WLMP and GCSS-Army, but it is not working on much in terms of EDI and XML. Group members asked for the details of other service ERP efforts. Ms. Kline responded that the Navy is working on five ERP efforts: SPAWAR's Cabrillo, MSC's financial ERP with Oracle, NAVSEA's NEMAS maintenance ERP, NAVAIR's Sigma program management ERP, and NAVSUP and NAVAIR's joint SMART logistics ERP. Ms. Howard told the group that the logistics side of the Army's ERP effort will be fully DLMS compliant.
- Ms. Fory informed the group that LMI is assisting DLIS in its efforts to use EDI for its cataloging transactions. Currently, they are developing multiple versions

of the 888 transaction set and are considering using the 536 for introducing new items into the cataloging system. They are making sure the transactions will be able to run smoothly with BSM. Additionally, DLIS is beginning to look at using XML for its data exchange.

- Ms. Kline informed the group that NAVSEA is going to be starting a pilot for using the DOD JPMO Standard Procurement System (SPS) to transfer data from/to legacy systems with SPS. The initial pilot will be completed in March 2003 and will be deployed to all of the NAVSEA Warfare Centers next summer.

The group then reviewed the LFWG listserv and made a few corrections to forward to Ms. Lambert.

5. **DoD XML Update.** Cedric Vessell (DISA) briefed the group on the DoD's approach to EB Standards and XML. The DoD EB Standards Branch supports the functional requirements of the DoD in the development, adoption, maintenance, publication, and configuration management of approved EB/EC standards and specifications (EDI/XML) to ensure compatibility and interoperability among DoD and non-DoD information systems. Mr. Vessell discussed current and future XML projects in the DoD, such as End-to-End Procurement Process, the transition of EDI customers to XML, and Electronic Portal Access Services. Since there are already several groups working on developing XML e-Business standards (CEFACT, OASIS, and X12), the DoD EB Standards Branch has proposed that the DoD leverage the work these pre-existing groups rather than proceed with standards development on its own. Additionally, the EB Standards Branch recommends adding an "e-Business" namespace to the DoD XML registry, and applying the ebXML design rules to End-to-End Procurement.

Mr. Vessell walked the group through the DoD's XML registry, which is available online at <http://diides.ncr.disa.mil/xmlreg/user/index.cfm>. The registry is divided into functional namespaces, each of which hosts the DTDs, Schema, attributes, and other XML information resource types that fall under the jurisdiction of that namespace. The group expressed some concern about a possible redundancy with the existence of both an "Acquisition Logistics" namespace and a "Logistics" namespace. The group also expressed a desire to make sure that the logistics community is represented in the DoD EB Standards work. Eventually, EDI and XML will have to work together if the DoD transitions to using XML, so it only makes sense that the LFWG be aware of, if not involved in, DoD XML work.

6. **LFWG XML Migration Discussion.** Ms. Kline then asked the group for opinions on how it should position itself to work in the XML environment, and whether or not there are any XML efforts the group members feel the group should be involved in. Ms. Fory suggested that the group change its charter to cover XML as X12 has done. Mr. Vessell told the group that the DoD is considering using the work of EDI groups that are already parts of ANSI to arrive at an XML standard. Ms. Fory pointed out that the value of the existing standards group is that they already possess the

functional know-how. Mr. Vessell recommended applying ebXML to the end-to-end framework. The group needs to move into the XML arena.

The group agreed that it makes sense for it to use the existing standards-creation architecture and promote itself as a pre-existing forum. Ms. Fory will recommend to DLIS that it develop its EDI and XML transactions simultaneously and bring them to the group as a test case. The group decided to expand its charter to include XML and "emerging technologies" and tabled further discussion per the changes.

7. **New and Pending Work - IC Status and Discussion.** Ms. Fory presented the current status of ICs. The group offered suggestions/revisions to the status of the following ICs.
- 180M1: to be sent for expedited re-ballot
 - 511R2: DLMSO has more changes and will resubmit
 - 517M1: to be changed and sent for expedited re-ballot
 - 527D1: sent out for public comment on 8/5/02
 - 856R1: approved on 8/11/02
 - 856S1: to go for vote
 - 830R1: on hold pending action by Ms. Johnson then sent out for re-ballot
 - 869A1: approved, approval date unknown
 - 869F1: to be changed to align with the 511 and sent out for expedited re-ballot
 - 940R1: the Rev2 is currently being prepared and will be sent out for public comment
 - 945A Revision 2: approved on 8/14/02
- The following ICs are still pending:
- 511M Revision 1
 - 527R Revision 2
 - 846A Revision 1
 - 947I Revision 1
 - 650A

8. **FESMCC Procedures and IC Processing.** Ms. Fory updated the group on FESMCC IC approval procedures. The process begins when someone develops an IC and takes it to the functional working group under whose jurisdiction that IC falls. The IC then goes to EDISMC and then is posted for public comment for thirty days (if the IC was developed within the DoD, DISA runs a technical compliance check on it before posting it for public comment). Once those thirty days are over, the IC then goes to ballot and, if approved, is posted as a federally approved IC. In the recent absence of the NIST website, the public commenting process occurred via the listservs. Ms. Fory recommended that the group document its processes and send them to the DoD with the recommendation that the other groups use them.

- 9 . **SPS Protocols Discussion (End-to-End IPT)**. Rich Modrowski (LMI) briefed the group on SPS Protocols and the End-to-End Interdepartmental Processing Team. When testing began on passing 850/860 transactions between SPS and SDMS, the End-to-End IPT discovered that the federal ICs are too flexible to share information consistently and predictably between systems. This is discouraging the use of procurement ICs in service/agency-to-vendor transactions, when the primary purpose of these ICs is to send information to vendors. To try and solve this problem, the IPT created a protocol focus group that will examine the 850 and 860, segment by segment, and create a document that will serve as something akin to a user's guide for the ICs. The group will begin working on the 850 next week at AMS, and hopes to have a document ready for public comment by the end of December.

Ms. Johnson remarked that DLMSO has done something similar by creating IC "supplements" which are versions of logistics ICs that have been tailored for DoD use. Ms. Kline recommended that a member of the LFWG attend the protocol group's meeting, as the work done there will affect the logistics community, especially with regards to purchase request requirements transactions. The minutes from the protocol meeting will be sent to the LFWG listserv.

- 10 . **Discussion to Elect New LFWG Chair/Co-chair**. This action item was tabled until the next meeting.
- 11 . The meeting adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Logistics Functional Working Group

Wednesday, August 21, 2002
9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Logistics Management Institute
Room 5095
2000 Corporate Ridge
McLean, VA

Contact: Sandra Kline, Co-Chair, NAVSEA (202) 781-2910

AGENDA

Opening Remarks/Introductions

Sandy Kline, NAVSEA

New Federal/DoD EDI Website Demo

Collista Wiggins, DoD/Kim Lambert, LMI

Agency/Service Updates

All

DoD XML Update

Cedric Vessell, DoD

LFWG XML Migration Discussion

Sandy Kline, NAVSEA

New & Pending Work - IC status & discussion

Sandy Kline, NAVSEA/Kathy Fory, LMI

FESMCC Procedures & IC Processing

Sandy Kline, NAVSEA

SPS Protocols Discussion (End-to-End IPT)

Sandy Kline, NAVSEA

Discussion to Elect New LFWG Chair/Co-chair

Sandy Kline, NAVSEA

Adjourn

LWFG Attendance

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